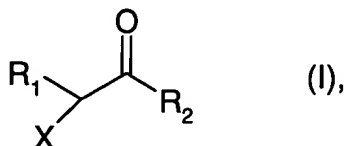


6. (amended) A process for the preparation of a polymer or block copolymer (V), wherein R_1 , R_2 , A, B, X, x, y and m are as defined in claim 1, in which process ethylene-group-containing aliphatic monomers that form the basis of the polymer blocks A and B are subjected to a polymerisation reaction by atom transfer radical polymerisation (ATRP) in the presence of an α -halocarboxylic acid ester of formula



as polymerisation initiator, wherein R_1 , R_2 and X are as defined in claim 1, and in the presence of an oxidisable transition metal complex catalyst.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended by replacement. Said claims have been amended to correct dependency, to provide minor clarification and reduce filing fees by eliminating multiple dependencies. No other claims have been amended. No new matter has been added. No claims have been added.

Another version of the amended claims, showing the changes relative to the previous version, is appended. Underlining shows additions. Deletions are shown by strikethrough rather than bracketing since the claims may contain bracketing that is to remain.

Applicants aver that the claims are now in proper form for examination. An Action on the merits of the claims is respectfully awaited.

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Respectfully submitted,

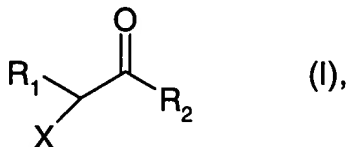
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JUL 19 2001

Marked-up Version of Amended Claims 4 and 6

4. (amended) A polymer composition comprising a polymer or block copolymer (V) according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein R_1 , R_2 , A, B, x, y and m are as defined in claim 1, and at least one additive~~additives~~ customary in polymer compositions.

6. (amended) A process for the preparation of a polymer or block copolymer (V), wherein R_1 , R_2 , A, B, X, x, y and m are as defined in claims 1~~and 8~~, in which process ethylene-group-containing aliphatic monomers that form the basis of the polymer blocks A and B are subjected to a polymerisation reaction by atom transfer radical polymerisation (ATRP) in the presence of ~~the~~an α -halocarboxylic acid ester of formula



as polymerisation initiator, wherein R_1 , R_2 and X are as defined ~~above~~in claim 1, and in the presence of an oxidisable transition metal complex catalyst.